



January 13, 2014

COCA Updates are disseminated biweekly. More frequent distributions occur when there is emergency information or CDC event-specific updates to share. The next COCA Update is scheduled for **January 27**.

This issue contains information from **December 30, 2013 – January 13, 2014** and guidance documents relevant to current public health events.

For questions about these or other clinical issues, please write to us at coca@cdc.gov.

Additional Resources

[CDC Emergency on Twitter](#)

[CDC Health Partners Outreach on Facebook](#)

[COCA Home Page](#)

Topics and Highlights

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[Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Disease](#) *First Human Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Virus Infection Reported in Americas*

[Travel Safety](#)

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COCA News and Announcements

Upcoming COCA Call/Webinar:

Malaria Cases in the U.S. Reach 40-Year High: Information and Guidance for Clinicians

Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 pm (Eastern Time)

Dial In Number: 888-233-9077

Passcode: 7399953

Webinar: <https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW3575459&p=7399953&t=c>

The number of malaria cases reported in the United States in 2011 was the largest since 1971, representing a 14% increase from 2010 and a 48% increase from 2008. The majority of malaria infections occurred among persons who traveled to regions with ongoing malaria transmission. Imported malaria can reintroduce malaria into regions where the disease is not endemic and environmental conditions are present that support the lifecycle of the parasite. During this COCA call, a CDC subject matter expert will describe malaria prevention strategies aimed at reducing the risk of malaria in travelers, discuss the diagnosis of malaria in patients with suspect malaria, and explain the treatment options for confirmed malaria cases.

CE = Continuing Education

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2014/callinfo_012814.asp

Recent COCA Call/Webinar:

Assessing Risk and Strengthening Community-wide Preparedness

Date: Thursday, November 14, 2013

Risk assessments are a vital source of baseline information for preparedness planning. Community decisions made now affect the lives and investments of everyone in the community for decades. Therefore, it is important to collaborate with key stakeholders when using risk assessment tools to decide which hazards require attention and what actions must be planned for to protect the people, property, and environment. During this COCA Call/Webinar, learn how the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Upper Midwest Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center developed partnerships between health care and public health agencies to assess their community's risk and improve their community-based planning.

http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2013/callinfo_111413.asp

Archived COCA Conference Calls are available at: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/callinfo.asp>
Free continuing education (CME, CNE, ACPE, CEU, CECH, and AAVSB/RACE) is available for most calls. For more information on free CE: <http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/continuingeducation.asp>

CDC News and Announcements

CDC Science Clips: Volume 6, Issue: 1 – (CDC)

Each week select science clips are shared with the public health community to enhance awareness of emerging scientific knowledge. The focus is applied public health research and prevention science that has the capacity to improve health now.

<http://www.cdc.gov/phlic/sciclips/issues/>

Public Health Preparedness

NEW: Welcome to WISER: Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders – (NIH)

WISER is a system designed to assist emergency responders in hazardous material incidents. WISER provides a wide range of information on hazardous substances, including substance identification support, physical characteristics, human health information, and containment and suppression advice.

<http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov/>

Emergency Preparedness and Response – (CDC)

Find resources for All Hazards and Specific Hazards preparedness.

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/hazards-all.asp>

Emergency Preparedness and Response Training Resources for Clinicians – (CDC)

Find online and in-person training centers and resources at

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/trainingresources.asp>

Natural Disasters and Severe Weather

Food and Water Needs: Preparing for a Disaster or Emergency – (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/foodwater/prepare.asp>

Health and Safety Concerns for All Disasters – (CDC)

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/disasters/alldisasters.asp>

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

MMWR publications are prepared by the CDC. To electronically subscribe, go to

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/mmwrsubscribe.html>

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- [Histoplasmosis Outbreak Associated with the Renovation of an Old House — Quebec, Canada, 2013](#)
- [Outbreak of Salmonellosis Associated with Consumption of Pulled Pork at a Church Festival — Hamilton County, Ohio, 2010](#)
- [CDC Grand Rounds: Evidence-Based Injury Prevention](#)
- [Notes from the Field: New Delhi Metallo- \$\beta\$ -Lactamase–Producing *Escherichia coli* Associated with Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography — Illinois, 2013](#)

Infectious, Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases

Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus

NEW: First Human Avian Influenza A (H5N1) Virus Infection Reported in Americas – January 8 (CDC)

Canada has reported the first case of human infection with avian influenza A (H5N1) virus ever detected in the Americas.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/news/first-human-h5n1-americas.htm>

Update: Avian Influenza A (H7N9) Virus – January 8 (CDC)

Human infections with a new avian influenza A (H7N9) virus continue to be reported in China. The virus has been detected in poultry in China as well. While mild illness in human cases has been seen, most patients have had severe respiratory illness and some people have died. No cases of H7N9 outside of China have been reported.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/h7n9-virus.htm>

Seasonal Influenza

Weekly Flu View – January 3 (CDC)

This is a weekly influenza surveillance report prepared by CDC Influenza Division. All data are preliminary and may change as CDC receives more reports.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

Planning and Preparedness: Health Professionals and Seasonal Flu – (HHS)

Health care providers play an important role during flu season. The following guidance and information will assist health care providers and service organizations to plan and respond to seasonal flu.

<http://www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/hospital/index.html>

Travel Safety

Current Travel Warnings – January 8 (US Department of State)

Travel Warnings are issued when long-term, protracted conditions that make a country dangerous or unstable lead the State Department to recommend that Americans avoid or consider the risk of travel to that country. A Travel Warning is also issued when the U.S. Government's ability to assist American citizens is constrained due to the closure of an embassy or consulate or because of a drawdown of its staff.

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html

Food, Drug and Device Safety

NEW: FDA Investigates Outbreak of Salmonella Stanley Linked to Cashew Cheese from The Cultured Kitchen® – January 3 (FDA)

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local officials have been investigating illnesses associated with a specific brand of non-dairy, vegan cashew “cheese”.

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/RecallsOutbreaksEmergencies/Outbreaks/ucm380307.htm>

MedWatch: The FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program – (FDA)

Your FDA gateway for clinically important safety information and reporting serious problems with human medical products.

<http://www.fda.gov/Safety/MedWatch/default.htm>

FoodSafety.gov Reports FDA and USDA Food Recalls, Alerts, Reporting & Resources – (HHS/USDA/FDA/CDC/NIH)

For recalls and alerts by both FDA and USDA, or to report a problem or make inquiries.

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/recalls/recent/index.html>

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The Emergency Risk Communication Branch (ERCB) Clinician Communication Team works to enhance partners' knowledge of emerging threats and their effects on human populations, and to provide relevant, timely information to help manage these threats by developing and maintaining mechanisms for communication. The Clinician Communication Team is responsible for the management of all COCA products.

For information on this and other clinical issues or to send your feedback please contact us at coca@cdc.gov

ERCB offers a variety of free tools and resources to help you enhance your knowledge of emergency preparedness and response:

[CDC Health Partners Outreach Facebook page](#) - real time updates, guidance, and situational awareness for public health partners on Facebook.

[Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity](#) – resources for health care providers.

[Subscribe the COCA RSS Feed](#) - get notified of conference calls, updates, and CDC guidance for health providers.

[Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication \(CERC\) Training](#) - course on the fundamentals of CDC's Crisis & Emergency Risk Communication.

[Health Alert Network \(HAN\)](#) - CDC's primary method of sharing cleared information about urgent public health incidents with public information officers; federal, state, territorial, and local public health practitioners; clinicians; and public health laboratories.



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